Allocation of funds for repair of roads

286. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Orissa during a meeting with him has requested for higher allocation of funds for repair of roads, especially in the mineral belt and he had promised for higher allotment to address this issue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the additional amount that has been released or proposed to be released to the State in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allocation for National Highway (Original) works has been enhanced to Rs. 130.0 crore from original allocation of Rs. 85.00 crore. Similarly, the allocation against Flood Damage Repair (FDR) has also been enhanced to Rs. 9.5 crore from original allocation of Rs. 3.00 crore.

Repair of Cuttack-Paradip Road

287. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Cuttack-Paradip road needs immediate repairs to control road accidents;

(b) whether Government is also aware that on account of paucity of funds, the State Government is not able to make much headway in the matter; and

(c) if so, the action plan of the Centre to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Cuttack-Paradeep road is a State road. Government of Orissa is improving this road to 10.0m wide concrete pavement for an aggregate length of 82 km. for about Rs. 130.0 crore with different sources of funds. Ministry's Share is Rs. 26.46 crore sanctioned under Central Road Fund (CRF) for about 16.35 km. length and balance is to be financed by M/s Paradip Port Trust, Indian Oil Corporation, Orissa Mining Corporation and State Government of Orissa. The work is in progress and there is no shortage of funds against CR work sanctioned by this Ministry.

Ship-building factory in Orissa

288. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set-up a ship-building factory in Orissa under private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter alia,* indicating the time-frame within which it would be completed and operationalized; and

(c) the extent to which this would help to create additional job opportunities in this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India. However, the Government of Orissa had intimated that there is a porposal for setting up a ship building yard and ship repair facilities at the mouth of the Dhamra river in Bhadrak District in Orissa as a joint venture project.

(c) The project, proposed to be implemented in three phases, has a potential of providing direct employment to about 11,000 persons and indirect employment to about 45,000 persons.

Security threat from Sethusamudram Canal

289. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Director-General of Coast Guard to the effect that Sethusamurdram Canal can pose security threat to India;

(b) if so, whether Government has since examined the implication of such a statement; and

(c) if so, Governmnt's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R.BALLU): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the statement of Director General of Coast guard. The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project was approved by the Government in May, 2005 after obtaining all necessary clearances and inter-Ministerial consultation. However, pursuant to an order passed by the Supreme Court on 31.8.2007, dredging work at Adam's Bridge area has been suspended. Further, pursuant to the submissions made before the Hon'ble supreme Court of India by the Government Counsel on 14.9.2007 in respect of certain transferred cases and writ petitions relating to the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, the Government constituted a Committee consisting of eminent persons on 5.10.2007 with the terms of reference to invite objections & suggestions from all concerned including the writ petitioners having interest in the subject matter and to consider all suggestions/ proposals/documents after giving them a personal hearing. The Committee has submitted its report on 29.11.2007. The report is under consideration.

J.J. and rehabilitation colonies in Delhi

†290. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of J.J. and rehabilitation colonies and their locations in Delhi till 31st December, 2007 along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to give ownership right to the residents of these colonies to whom plots of 22 and half yards measurement had been allotted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.